

August 30, 1950

TO : Chairman, Psychological Strategy Board
From : IE - C. M. Hulten
Subject: Problem for Consideration of the Board

Problem: Shall Army radio stations overseas in the Armed Forces Network (AFN) follow State Department overnight guidances and use selected portions of the VOA news file?

Discussion: Representatives of HICOG met informally with AFN officials and news staff on August 16th in an effort to achieve closer coordination between the Voice of America programs and AFN. (See HICOG Frankfurt despatch no. 515, August 17, 1950, TAB A).

The HICOG-AFN meeting was held as the result of the despatch to HICOG by the Department of three airgrams, A-48 of July 6th, A-335 of August 3rd and A-433 of August 11th, all drafted in GAI and cleared in the IE area only with a Washington representative of IBD. (See file at TAB B). The airgram series had been initiated to urge closer coordination between the VOA and AFN. The third airgram, A-433, was written at the request of Colonel S. Y. McGiffert, Director TIME, Department of the Army and stated:

"The reference airgram has been discussed with the Department of the Army and while there is no objection to a monitoring of the VOA news file by AFN for the purposes of such guidance as AFN may desire to cull from the file, the Department of the Army requests that in your discussions it be made clear that there is in no way any compulsion for AFN to be guided by VOA broadcasts."

Mr. Kohler, Chief of IBD, has raised the point that this third airgram would appear to put AFN on guard against using Department guidances and VOA news freely.

A decision by the Board appears necessary to clarify this situation for the guidance of all persons concerned.

Recommendations: That the Board adopt the policy that AFN should follow State Department overnight guidances and the VOA news file regularly to insure the presentation to overseas audiences of a coordinated and clear cut United States position at all times.

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